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This, meanwhile, is removed from the comb, pass
as it is ~~from~~ deposited, by a knife, ~~falling~~ into
receiving cans below. The dressed tuft is
laid so as to over-lap the last tuft, & thus a
continuous cliver is formed, which is
carried forward by rollers, & finally delivered,
a beautiful milk-white roll, into its proper
receptacle.

This combed wool must have been present to
the mind of the apostle when ^{as} he wrote of "his
head & his hairs were white like wool, as white
as snow," - referring it to wool in this stage
of preparation the beauty & dignity of the figure
appear, & the words contain one of those delightful
hints of insight into the ways & arts of man, which
proclaim, upon every page of the Bible, that "his
God doth instruct him to discretion". It
is true, the art of 'combing' is said to have
been invented in the second century, by
one Bishop Blaise, the patron saint of the
Woolstet Trade: but the combs, which made
red-hot, were the instruments of his martyrdom,
may have been an improvement effected by the
good Bishop upon another method of preparation.

The Combing is followed by the processes
of Drawing & Rooving, the object of which successive
operations is pretty much the same; - to press
several clivers into one, & to draw this
one out until it is considerably thinner
than either of the clivers of which it is formed.
Half a dozen frames make 'A Set of Drawing'
half a dozen, a 'Set of Rooving', which process
differs from the Drawing in that the wool
is loosely wound upon spindles instead of
being delivered into a receiving can as in
3 of the 6 sets of drawing frame; the
rooving is in fact a loose kind of spinning

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which prepares the wool for the throat. By the operation of these dozen frames, the original fibre is doubled many times; indeed, it is calculated that some quarters of a million doublings take place before the wool is finally spun; every doubling not only stretches & arranges each several fibres, but tends to distribute the ends of the fibres, so that, finally, it is very unlikely that two ends should fall together, & it is impossible that three should; - an arrangement upon which the strength of the yarn obviously depends. The principle of all these machines is pretty much the same; a pair of rollers revolving slowly press the several fibres into one, which a second pair of rollers, or what not, or a set of spindles, moving at a much quicker rate, draw out or attenuate in proportion to the speed with which they revolve.

The processes of spinning & weaving, though of interest, are common to all textile manufacture & need not now be dwelt upon; while the dyeing of worsted is too complex a matter to be lightly touched upon. The spinning, is, in fact, a continuation of the roving process: the yarn is known as 80s, 60s, 100s, & so on, according as 60 or 100 hanks are spun out of a lb. of wool; 100s yarn is exceedingly fine, but practically there is little demand for it; 30s is largely used, being employed in ordinary or somewhat coarse fabrics. Much of this yarn is exported - though not half as much now as in the happier days of Bradford trade; - & delightful it is to an orderly mind to watch the operation of packing: yarn intended for exportation is spun upon spindle-shaped paper cases, which are removed from the frame as they stand

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packed in large crates, row upon row, ends between ends, as neatly & compactly as the cells of a honey-comb; the whole bulk is finally reduced by the means of a heavy press: Nothing, indeed, strikes a visitor more than the extreme neatness, order, & promptitude, of all the arrangements in a Mill.

In order to see the successive processes ^{by means of which only over clean fleeces become finished stuff,} ~~we have planned at~~ we are taken through one immense room after another, down the length of which, spinning, drawing, or other frames are ranged in double file, each frame being attended by women or girls, while a few men or youths stand about - as overlookers. The noise is deafening. Though no doubt - the operatives get used to it; just as one might learn to sleep with open windows in the one inn of ^{Inverness} ~~Inverness~~ in spite of the roar of the water-fall behind the house; & truly, different as are the associations belonging to them, the roars of machinery & the roar of a cataract are not unlike in themselves. This incessant din appeared to us the most peculiarly unpleasant circumstance connected with factory labour; the women & girls stand to their work, it is true, but so do ship-women; the girls who attend to the spinning-frames have some vanity, as they must walk about a good deal from spindle to spindle, their business being to piece any broken threads which occur in the long frame containing 120 or more spindles: there is doubtless some degree of strain upon the attention of the spinners, but ^{they}

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look quiet & ease, as if their work did not oppress them.

The weavers are, perhaps, a more intelligent, skilled class of operatives than the spinners & they earn higher wages. The magical shuttle flies from edge to edge of the warp, between the raised & depressed threads, without any aid from them; although they usually handle the part of the loom which presses each new weft thread close to the last, that, we were told, was an excess of feminine zeal, & not necessary part of their work. The value of the cloth depends, however, a good deal upon the weaver, whose business it is to see that no roughness, knot, or other imperfection disfigures the smooth surface.

Many of the children appeared to be employed as ^{for numeraries} ~~supplementary~~ 'hands', required only when any frame needed to be replenished with material, & in the intervals, free to play & chat ^{with each other} ~~amongst themselves~~.

~~It must be borne in mind that what is~~ pleasant & easy work for an hour, may become insupportably fatiguing before the end of a day; we can only say that there is no apparent hardship in factory labour; it was truly pleasant to see 1500 persons employed in a manner so little laborious in circumstances of so much general comfort: the rooms were in no case more than pleasantly warm, & must have been very well ventilated, so fresh was the air & so free from the heavy oily odours one associates with a factory. ^{It should be stated, however, that the occasion of our visit was a hot day in January.} On the whole, the labour in woollen mills, though monotonous, is not considered severe, & as a class

Class. The operatives have a fairly healthy, well ^{of} aspect which compares favourably with the hands of the Lancashire Cotton Mills. Yet there is a high rate of mortality in the factory districts, especially amongst infants & adult women, a circumstance which is not surprising when we learn that mothers leave their babies of a fortnight, or even of a week old, to resume work at the mills. The families of the operatives may be roughly divided into two classes, those in which the mother goes out to work, & those in which she stays at home to keep house. The latter class appear to enjoy a good deal of rough comfort, living in well-built cottages with two or three bedrooms ~~which are~~ kept for the most part wholesomely clean & not too tidy. The living room is culturally furnished, the street door opening upon a handsome chest of drawers, on the top of which the family treasures are spread. The children are tenderly reared; but at nine or ten they may go to the mills as half-timers; & the habit of early independence thus acquired tells mischievously upon family life. 'They do as it suits them,' the parents say, & appeal to School Board authorities & other outside help to aid them in the government of the children.

When the mother goes out to work, we may look for the worst side of family life; but in these cases the evils are simply those ^{common to all} neglected homes, & do not belong necessarily to labour in a factory. The provident, careful operative is well-fed, well-dressed, well-housed. But in a house of his own, the purchase of

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flaming put into a Building Society; hence he
has the self respect which comes of personal possession;
He never obsequiously & rarely bores;
Those who know the work people of the West-riding
consider that the quality of 'democratic in-
dependence' is, perhaps, their least lovely
trait; but it is tempered by a kindliness
which produces rough courtesy, by a strong
instinctive love of fair play, & some capacity
to see both sides of a question, & also, by the
power of being grateful, of perceiving & acknowledging
very heartily any service done them.

During the distress which has visited the town
through the bad trade of the last few years, the
operatives showed a fine temper; - patient endurance
readiness to bear privation, & to do any sort
of work at any wages. While the depression
was at its worst, the corporation made efforts
to provide work for the men; & groups of
respectable artisans might be seen doing
the work of navvies for a pittance of 4 a day,
with the sham-faced look in their famished
faces of men employed out of their own trade.

Putting aside times of exceptional
distress, the condition of the working classes
generally in Bradford is not without its
ameliorations; & foremost amongst these
is the all but universal Saturday half-holiday.
I trust the Bradford folk make very
excellent use. The town is situated in the midst
of an exceptionally beautiful & romantic district;
half a dozen lovely spots in the air valley;
wild fens, wooded dales, or breezy moors, are
within

within a quarter of an hour's railway journey.
Others, for the half-day excursions which
the railway companies provide for most-
summers Saturdays, there are the three ^{Abbeys} of
Kilnsey, Gourncliffe, & Herkstatt, Fossils
Hills, Malham Cove & Gordale Scar,
Lugborough Caves, & half a dozen other
'attractions', each of which one would willingly

traverse the length of England to see.
The railway platforms are a goodly sight
on these weekly 'field days'; hundreds of happy
families, babies & all, crowd into the carriages,
take all the squeaking & pushing as excellent
jokes, & keep up a fund of good humour &
kindly helpfulness till they return at night,
tired enough with unmounted walking & climbing,
but full of the two-fold refreshment of pure
air & novel impressions. No need for
folk to stay away from any popular resort
because it is the people's holiday; the place
will be crowded, no doubt; but with a genial
humourous, civil, quite well-combated
crowd, which spoils nobody's pleasure while
tattling its own.

No are the pursuits of the Sunday less to
the minds of the operatives as a class: the
'Mill-fair' form an important element
in most congregations; while the Sunday
Schools have large 'Select Classes' of young
men & women - often full of desire for
the best things, & most pleasant to work in.
There is no doubt that the operative class
find

find much intellectual pleasure & receive much
culture in their Sunday avocations, as is proved
by the fact that attendance at Sunday School is
continued even during married life in most
manufacturing towns; & the congregational singing
of the Sunday is a real delight. People blessed
with fine voices & true ear, & who are seldom
without some degree of musical training.

The Bradford Mills close at 5.30 P.M. giving the
operatives a long evening to spend in pleasure
seeking or upon personal improvement, for
which many opportunities are put in their way.
Elementary instruction is well provided for, &
besides, there are evening classes for Art, Science,
Mathematics, Languages, all well taught & well
attended by working people. We have only space
to notice one more fact illustrative of the status
of the working operatives in Bradford; the town has a
free Public Library established under the
recent act - which contains some 27,000 volumes,
& is well supplied with the public journals. 9,000
readers in the Dunes Room & Reading Room
is an ~~an~~ ordinary weekly average, 1,600
of these being women, that is to say, upwards
of 1,500 persons, on an average, read in these
rooms in a single day, & besides this, some
5,000 borrowers take books to their homes.
These numbers very fairly represent the
'reading public' amongst the labouring
classes, as excellent subscription
libraries are supported by the town.

Charlotte M. Mason,

17p2 June 24/1

■ A Morning in a Bradford Woolen Factory

Bradford lies in an elbow of the Aire valley ~~which~~ is known as Bradford Vale - sitting quite an amphitheatre of hills; rather, the heart of the town is in the valley, while the suburban parts & some of the principal streets climb the slopes of the hills.

It is entirely a manufacturing town; from any over-looking hill-side one may reckon scores of factory chimneys, & seen from such a point of view, the buildings show thinly from behind a cloudy curtain of smoke. But having said this, we have said the worst of Bradford, which, for a manufacturing centre, is fairly attractive & pleasant as a place of residence. It is seldom that the fine air of the moors is perceptibly vitiated by the heavy factory odour; most of the mills are in quarters little frequented by the general passenger, so that the main thoroughfares are simply streets of good shops; while Manningham & Morton, the two suburbs in whose handsome villas the manufacturers & merchants live, are excellently placed both as regards effect & the conditions of health. Manningham in particular, has a really fine situation, commanding the ^{its} Pen Thorntor valley & the hills on the further side. It is true these last are bare enough, but a hill is a hill, & a green slope is pleasant.